Pirate Journal

Volume 2 October 2014 Number 1

Books Destroyed by MJC Library Students Not Happy: Charge Waste

By Josh Gier and Rob Van Tuinen

In spring 2013, thousands of books were thrown into dumpsters by student workers at the MJC West Campus Library under the direction of librarians. According to a presentation provided by Jillian Daly, Dean of the Library & Learning Center, this process, known as "weeding," was carried out in order to create "an open and collaborative space" in the new East Campus Library, in which the old tall wooden book shelves were replaced with modern waist-high metal ones.

These books covered a range of topics from engineering to art history. Seeding criteria assured that they were worn, damaged, or published prior to the 1990s, with the bulk being published from the 1950's to the 1980's. The intended purpose of these criteria: to discard old, untouched books that didn't cater to the majority of the student body.

When questioned about why the books were thrown away rather than sold or donated, administrative officials replied that the time, effort, and associated cost required to do so would outweigh the perceived benefits.

Brian Greene, librarian for the West Campus Library / STEM Center, offered his opinion: "It would be great if books could be handed to an interested group of volunteers willing to make the donation or sale more financially feasible. The weeding efforts were admittedly rushed in an effort to open the new [East Campus] library, and as a result, efforts weren't taken to find an interested party willing to sell or donate the books".

However, students viewed the destruction of the old books less favorably than some of the staff.

"I would be furious if I donated books to a library and they threw them away," said Nick Lancaster, an MJC-employed student worker who was working in the library at the time. "They spent school funds to pay employees to waste resources; hours that could have been spent tutoring and assisting students, and denied suggestions to put the books to a more productive use".

"The foundation of modern education is access to a library of texts collected over a period of time. Teaching individuals to be free thinkers means that we not only provide up to date information, but older works provide valuable perspective on the advance of scholarship over the years. Do we discard Aristotle or Ptolemy because their cosmologies were supplanted by Copernicus and Galileo? Certainly not. As an institution just shy of a century old, it is regrettable that a larger library collection was viewed by leadership as a burden rather than a source of pride," said James Varble Vice-president Internal MJC College Democrats.

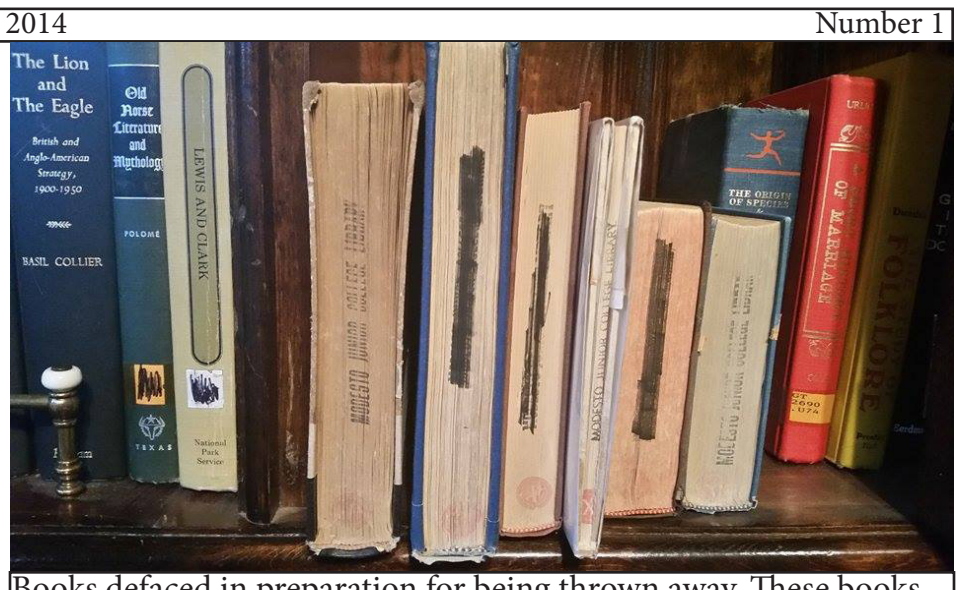
"The fact that those in charge of stewarding the library's resources did not take the utmost care to preserve all of the library's book collections is a horrific tragedy." Jacob Holleman, President of the College Republicans emphatically stated, "The destruction of that literature is an affront to all of scholarship and deserves only the strongest of condemnation! All of us at Modesto Junior College have suffered a great loss."

Jaime M. Ortega, who hopes to transfer this semester to major in Recreation, Parks, and Tourism Administration, was not impressed with books being thrown away saying, "Although the 'open and collaborative space' was created to benefit the students, it is a shame that they decided to just throw the books away. It appears as if books don't carry the same importance as they used to around here. I'm sure there are plenty of young people who would have loved a free book."

Despite contradicting opinions regarding the value of these old books weighed against the "collaborative atmosphere" prioritized in the new library, one thing remains for certain: The books in question will no longer be available to MJC students who wish to expand their studies beyond the material offered in the classroom. Whether they notice the difference imposed by the books' absence remains to be seen.

According to an article written by Nan Austin in the Modesto Bee January 30th, 2014 entitled Renovated Library Opens at Modesto Junior College, the library housed 75,000 books prior to the renovation.

Books Continued Back Page



Books defaced in preparation for being thrown away. These books were prevented from reaching the dumpsters. Photo by J. Gier.

Vice-President of Legislation Resigns Charges ASMJC With Corruption, Theft, Immaturity

October 3rd, 2014

To Whom It May Concern: After much reflection about my experience as the Associated Students of Modesto Junior College Vice President of Legislation, I have come to the conclusion that I will be resigning from office. This has not be an easy decision to make, but nevertheless a decision that I have inquired numerous opinions on, and have needed to account for other external and internal factors. My experience has shown me that there is a great absence of maturity in individuals in this organization. The childish actions taken by those who are active in this organization are not qualities of leaders, and should be noted for their behavior. There is no credibility in an organization that sees theft, dishonesty, and lack of professionalism as acceptable for its leaders.

While serving in this position, I have met several people who are prime examples of what leaders in ASMJC should strive to be. I look forward to helping those individuals in their endevaours to make the campus culture of Modesto Junior College more positive for students. I believe in their goals to do better. Their actions are not a result of my resignation, but rather the reason as to why it has been hard to make such a decision. Our time is not over yet; it is just the beginning of a new chapter.

To those behind the immature & anonymous emails, immoral actions, and destruction of our student government, I suggest you deeply examine your actions. Ask yourself: "am I pleased with myself? How have I actually helped students? Ten years down the road, will I be pleased with what I have done today? What would my mentors think of me? Why do I desire to bring so much negativity to the world?" I have seen people speak with such negative vehemence before, but never did I think that members of our student government would do the same. For the benefit of the students, the organization, and yourself, I invite each of you to critically analyze your actions and make a decision on how to make a positive change in your life.

My reason for being involved was to bring positive change. I came to MJC with an optimistic mind, passion to learn, and eagerness to get involved. Unfortunately, given the attitudes and actions taken by students and deemed acceptable by the administration, that once positive vision no longer remains. I look forward to a time where the people involved in ASMJC can set aside their own bias and work together with their fellow teammates. The excuse of "well that is just politics for you," should not be accepted in an organization that is supposed to impact and empower students. If there is ever a day where individuals decide to work for the advancement of the organization and not just personal motives, I would be the first one back in the office ready to work. Until that day, I will no longer provide my creativity, expertise, and open mind to those who contribute to the destruction of a better Modesto Junior College.

Submitted,
Tyler Menane

Tyler Menane, who was elected at the end of the Spring semester, was Vice-President of Legislation for ASMJC. He was kind enough to provide and let us print his resignation letter.

More on this story as it develops.

"First Amendment freedoms are most in danger when the government seeks to control thought or to justify its laws for that impermissible end. The right to think is the beginning of freedom, and speech must be protected from the government because speech is the beginning of thought."—Supreme Court Justice Anthony M. Kennedy, Ashcroft V. Free Speech Coalition (00-795) 535 U.S. 234 (2002) 198 F.3d 1083, affirmed.

Proposed Parking and Roads Layout Paid for with Measure E Bond that was voted on by citizens of Modesto Nov 2nd, 2004

"There is nothing so fretting and vexatious, nothing so justly TERRIBLE to tyrants, and their tools and abettors, as a FREE PRESS." Samuel Adams, (Boston Gazette, 1768)

"For if Men are to be precluded from offering their Sentiments on a matter, which may involve the most serious and alarming consequences, that can invite the consideration of Mankind, reason is of no use to us; the freedom of Speech may be taken away, and, dumb and silent we may be led, like sheep, to the Slaughter." George Washington, address to the officers of the army, Newburgh, New York (March 15, 1783)

"Freedom of speech is a principal pillar of a free government; when this support is taken away, the constitution of a free society is dissolved, and tyranny is erected on its ruins. Republics and limited monarchies derive their strength and vigor from a popular examination into the action of the magistrates." Benjamin Franklin, "On Freedom of Speech and the Press", Pennsylvania Gazette, 17 November 1737

Pirate Journal
A publication of Pirates for Liberty, Pirate Journal is the premier news source for the students of MJC. Our team of student journalists works to report on the conduct and misconduct of MJC's administrators, faculty, and students. Pirate Journal holds itself to rigorous journalism standards and strives to present each story with accuracy, objectivity, and public accountability.
Managing Editor:
Rob A. Van Tuinen
addison.rat@gmail.com
Editor: John Westberg
Columnist:
Rob Van Tuinen
John Westberg
Josh Gier
Nahrain Be
Contributors:
Tyler Menane
Logo Design:
Micah Van Zant

MJC Performing Arts
Upcoming Shows:
Jekyll & Hyde – Oct 23, 6:30pm-10pm; Oct 24, 7:30pm-10pm; Oct 25, 9:30am-10pm; Oct 30, 7:30pm-10pm; Oct 31, 7:30pm-10pm; Nov 1, 7:30pm-10pm; Nov 2, 2pm-10pm, Auditorium
MJC Friends of Music present a Homage Concert of Guitar & Piano Music
October 29, 7:30 pm, Music Recital Hall
Fall Sing - Nov 5, 3:30 pm Auditorium
Fall String Recital: From Classical to Calypso - Nov 20, 7:30 pm Music Recital Hall
Jazz Band Fall Concert - Nov 24, 7:30 pm, Auditorium
MJC Symphonic Band Fall Concert Dec 1, 7:30 pm, Auditorium
MJC Community Orchestra: Jaws and Juliet (and Romeo too!) Dec 2, 7:00 pm, Auditorium
Improv Murder Mystery December 3-6, 7:30 pm and Dec. 6 & 7, 2 pm, Little Theatre

Upcoming Auditions:
Auditions for Spring Play - Dec 15, 6:00 pm, Auditorium
Auditions for Spring Play - Dec 16, 6:00 pm, Auditorium
Choreographer's Showcase Auditions - Jan 28, 6pm

OPINION
Parking Problems!

By John Westberg

What is the biggest problem at MJC? Parking. Besides getting in classes parking is the hardest thing to do at MJC West or East Campuses. At the start of any semester, there will be over 20,000 students enrolled in classes at MJC on both campuses. There are thousands of students entering and exiting MJC every day for classes throughout the day.

On West Campus, there are only two entrances that students can use to park. West Campus has five parking lots: Yosemite Hall, Sierra Hall, Ace Pavilion, Soccer field, and the Gravel lot by Mary Stuart Rodgers Building. The most used parking lot is located behind the Sierra Hall. For almost the entire day students cannot find parking in that crowded lot, so they park in the Gravel lot almost half a mile away.

MJC has also moved more classes to west campus with the addition of the new Science Building. This adds to the parking problems with more classes being offered on West Campus.

The other problem is the flow of traffic getting to those lots on West Campus. With only two entrances cars are piled up trying to enter and exit the lots. The entrance on Blue Gum does not have a stop light; so traffic exiting MJC trying to make a left turn on Blue Gum are always backed up making horrible flows of traffic.

On the other side of West Campus, near the Gravel lot, students are stuck at a stop sign exiting onto Brink. The area is very strange, there are two stop signs at a four way intersection; even weirder is that the two stop signs are for the most traveled roads.

As for the Blue Gum entrance, a Stop light would be the best option for all traffic and pedestrians crossing the street. As of now, pedestrians crossing Blue Gum are at risk of cars racing down Blue Gum as there is no stoplight or stop sign.

With West Campus being more populated it would only be a benefit to students and staff if MJC looked into improving the flow of traffic and optimizing all available space for parking.

There is currently a plan set forth by the Measure E Bond. The Measure E Bond has funded all of MJC's newest improvements including the ACE Pavilion and Softball field. This plan adds significant parking and road space to West Campus, including a stop light for exiting onto Blue Gum avenue. The Measure E Bond also add two parking lots where the YCCD District offices are currently located. It also puts a road cutting from Blue Gum by Mary Stuart Rodgers Building to Student Drive. The plan adds a connecting the Sierra lot to Blue Gum going around the Softball Field.

There is no doubt that these improvements will help parking and the flow of traffic at West Campus, however, at what costs? The plan is estimated around $7 million broken down into six areas. This project is still in its design stage with an estimated construction start time of 2015 being completed in the course of a year into 2016. Another prospective problem for students is the closing and construction of the current roads and parking lots to build these new improvements.

This author is not one to complain without a solution or suggestion. It would make sense for MJC to erect a stoplight or roundabout on the Brink entrance (as exiting the Gravel lot). Having a roundabout would keep traffic always moving and not at a standstill. A Roundabout would also be more cost effective as it does not require any technology or power to work. A stoplight would be an improvement as well in this area.

With the increase in students a step must be taken to increase parking and improving the flow of traffic, whether that be the $7 million plan or a simple roundabout.

Think you have a solution?

email it to ASMJCcommunications@student.yosemite.edu

John Westberg is the Vice-President of Communications for the Associated Students of Modesto Junior College (Student Government) and a contributer to the Pirate Journal.

Watch for more columns for him or get in touch with him if you would like to get involved with his new media projects.

Modesto Junior College's Lawyer: Colleges, Dump Your Speech Codes

By Catherine Sevcenko

Every advocate dreams of winning over an opponent, but it rarely happens. It's just possible, though, that FIRE might have done so. David Urban of the law firm Liebert Cassidy Whitmore has written a thorough and insightful post on his firm's blog advising colleges and universities to review their speech-related policies to insulate themselves from the threat of litigation—like FIRE's new Stand Up For Speech Litigation Project.

Urban's advice to schools to revise their speech codes to avoid litigation is significant and welcome, particularly because of his experience defending colleges against First Amendment claims. Most recently, Urban was counsel to Modesto Junior College (MJC), which infamously prevented student Robert Van Tuinen from distributing copies of the Constitution on Constitution Day last year. (That suit was the first in our Stand Up For Speech project.) It is a credit to Urban that he wants to spare his other clients MJC's fate: national notoriety and a $50,000 bill to settle the case.

Urban cautions schools against maintaining "free speech zones" that are too small or inaccessible, harassment policies that are vague, and registration procedures for student expressive activity that impose a prior restraint on speech. He is right that such policies are unconstitutional on public campuses, and he is right to tell his peers that continued maintenance of such flawed policies exposes institutions to legal liability.

FIRE has been banging this drum for years, and we've recently decided to increase the pressure on institutions. Through our Stand Up For Speech Litigation Project, FIRE will support students and professors at public institutions who want to challenge a speech code that does not comport with the First Amendment. At FIRE's Stand Up For Speech press conference on July 1, FIRE President Greg Lukianoff explained that our goal was simple: to use litigation to make it clear that there's a price to be paid for violating students' and faculty's First Amendment rights—both in dollars and reputation.

Fortunately for schools who wish to stay out of court, reviewing and suggesting revised language for university policies is our specialty. To paraphrase the T-shirt at issue in the Stand Up For Speech case at Ohio University, FIRE gets colleges off for free—off "red light" status, that is. To name a few recent examples: My colleague Azhar Majeed recently worked with the University of Florida to eliminate its speech codes, and now UF has a "green light" rating. In May, the collaboration between FIRE and Georgetown College in Kentucky resulted in Georgetown College also receiving a green light. We were very pleased to publicize both of these positive developments with national press releases, and both the University of Florida and Georgetown College have excellent reason to feel proud of their new designations.

Urban tells his clients that FIRE has "ominously" warned of future lawsuits. Given the consistent clarity of the legal precedent with regard to the First Amendment obligations of public colleges and universities—precedent dating back more than two decades—we think administrators have had plenty of fair warning. It's long past time for public institutions to honor their legal and moral obligations to comply with the First Amendment. And as Urban warns, institutions that fail to do so may soon face a lawsuit.

Original published in The Torch at thefire.org August

Catherine Sevcenko, FIRE's Associate Director of Litigation, graduated magna cum laude from George Mason School of Law after a career as a Foreign Service Officer. Postings in Budapest, Munich, and Moscow before and after the fall of the Berlin Wall gave her a deep appreciation for the power of free speech. After law school, Catherine clerked on the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals before starting work as an associate at Steptoe & Johnson, LLC. After leaving Steptoe, Catherine joined the appellate group at the U.S. Trustees Program at the Department of Justice. Catherine joined FIRE as a Robert H. Jackson Legal Fellow; in October 2013, she took over the day-to-day management of what is now FIRE's Stand Up For Speech Litigation Project.

Catherine is an adjunct professor of appellate writing at George Mason School of Law.

New Vice-President of Communications: For ASMJC Brings Plans and Requests AV Equipment

By Rob Van Tuinen

July 1st, 2014 John Westberg took office as Vice-President of Communications for the Associated Students of Modesto Junior College, otherwise known as Student Government, where he began his plan to bring news back to the students of Modesto Junior College.

His plan involves a new site to publish news known as Trending@MJC at trendingmjc.weebly.com, creating a podcast as a radio news service but his most ambitious plan is the purchase of $15,000 in audio-visual equipment.

Westberg intends to use the equipment to live broadcast events like sports games, concerts, speakers, senate meetings and other specialized events. He spoke highly of student organizations being able to use the equipment to keep a record of their official club business and their events and planning to work directly with clubs to promote the use.

The $15,000 is more of an investment to Westberg who sees an opportunity to make money using this equipment.

"Once the live broadcasting is established, the goal is to approach local business for sponsorships or advertisements." Westberg said.
The potential monetary value and uses of this is equipment are yet to be seen but Westberg expects great things from this equipment.
"I would like to see a better campus life through students being more informed." Westberg said, "Remember MJC is a commuter school that has students traveling 30 or more minutes to get to MJC, through video and live broadcasting we can reach students no matter where they are."

Westberg responded to suggestions of using the equipment purchased for the now defunct Mass Communications by saying, "I asked to use the MJC Video equipment early in my planning stage, based on the unsure response, I feel as it was better for ASMJC to own the equipment that it could use without asking. The equipment will also be current and not four years old like the equipment in storage for the now non-operating Video production program at MJC."

Some students responses were more upbeat about the posibilities of this equipment.

"I believe that if the students and faculty are able to use it appropriately, this equipment could give something positive back to the students" said Joshua Kloth, Astronomy major and class of 2016

"I think it's a cool idea for people who can't make events because disabilities and other reasons and it will be good for events that sell out such as speech night. I also think 15k is a lot of money and I don't know that ads would generate much revenue." said Sandra Abbott, Photography major and Class of 2015, "At the same time, I appreciate that he is working to update, enhance and introduce media to mjc. Our school is a little bit outdated and behind on things like this."

"I like the idea. I feel very disconnected with MJC as a community and people can find unity through sports. I'd like to see MJC games live streamed" said David Liles, who is undecided on his major and class of 2016.

Some students were not as pleased with the actions of the student senate and the actions of MJC administrations in current and previous years.

"The unfortunate truth is that most students aren't involved in student senate or speaker events because they just can't be bothered to spend the time and energy to do so." said Louis Zuckerman, Computer Science major and Class of 2015. "Sports, I don't know. Maybe that could be nice for the them. But for speakers and senate meetings I believe it'd be a severe waste of money. Only a fraction of the student population would use or care for the media."

"Well personally, I would like to know why the need 15 grand of new equipment that serves no benefit to the students." said Steve LaJoie, Computer Graphics major and class of 2015, "Especially, when there is quite a bit of perfectly good gear from the tv and radio degree program they shut down."

Books Continued Page 1

The MJC Midterm Accreditation report October 2014 now shows that the library holds about 22,500 books. The rest of the books appear to have been destroyed and trashed or claimed by a library worker. That is a loss of 52,500 books.

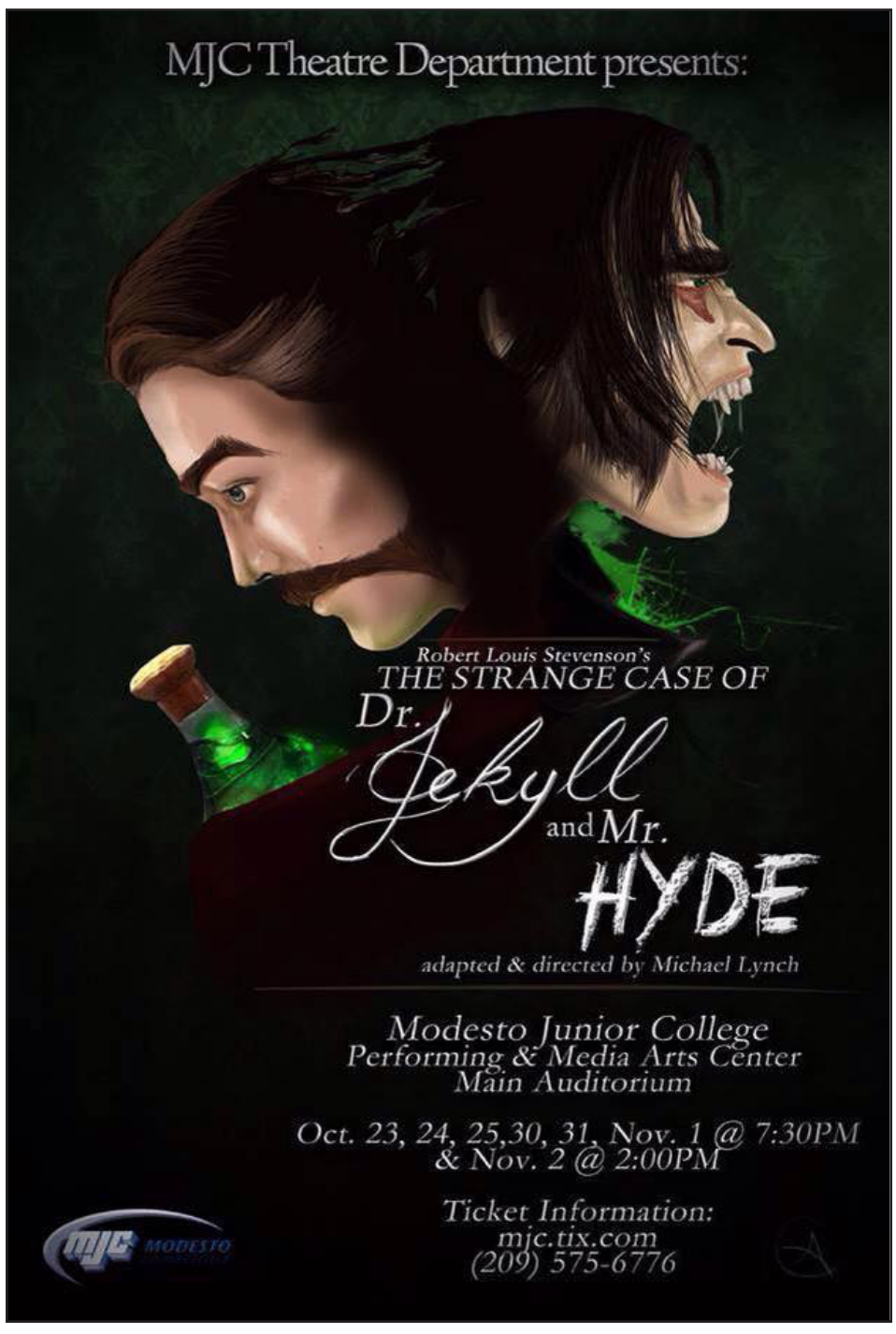
Susan Lilly, Communications, Marketing and Fund Devolopment Manager, had this to say, "The Stanislaus County Library would not allowed to donate books. That would be a gift of public funds."

Lilly did mention donating books to the jail or juvenile hall and that giving books to other governmental agencies is indeed acceptable.

Discarded books are sold by the library at prices from fifty cents to a dollar. These prices are set by the county board of supervisers. If books that are more than two years old are donated, they tend to end up in the discard book sales as time and effort to check them for completeness and general appearance would be considerable.

"I am aware that many object to the severity of my language; but is there not cause for severity? I will be as harsh as truth, and as uncompromising as justice. On this subject, I do not wish to think, or speak, or write, with moderation. No! No! Tell a man whose house is on fire to give a moderate alarm; tell him to moderately rescue his wife from the hands of the ravisher; tell the mother to gradually extricate her babe from the fire into which it has fallen;—but urge me not to use moderation in a cause like the present. I am in earnest—I will not equivocate—I will not excuse—I will not retreat a single inch—AND I WILL BE HEARD. The apathy of the people is enough to make every statue leap from its pedestal, and to hasten the resurrection of the dead." William Lloyd Garrison in the first issue of The Liberator (1831)

Got a hot news tip?
Want to write for the Pirate Journal?
Email us at:
mjcpiratejournal@gmail.com



A Welcome and MJC Student Benefits

By Nahrain B

Welcome To MJC, Home of the Pirates.

As a new student or a returning student, there are many benefits on campus that many people do not know about. For instance, do you need a scantron or other supplies, but you forgot your cash in your car? Have no fear! Both campuses offer once a day free scantrons, pencils and blue books. Just drop into the student center, all you need is your school ID and activity sticker. Dont have one? No problem school IDs are free, you can take your picture and receive your $5 activity sticker in the student center. Your benefits are not limited to just supplies!

There are plenty of great benefits that students have at their fingertips, one of the best opportunities at MJC is the chance to go in and visit with the school nurse and doctor. They offer vision screenings, color perception tests, immunizations, blood pressure checks, and pregnancy tests. They treat minor illnesses and minor injuries with the proper over-the-counter medications to further assist you in your time of need. They will do their best to assist you and if your situation needs more medical attention beyond their capabilities, you will be offered Doctor referrals, health education and training, mental health referrals and crisis intervention assistance depending on your particular situation. MJC Staff is more than happy to assist you and your every need.

MJC club meeting times

Administration of Justice
Fridays 4:00pm
Pirates Villege 101

Alpha Gamma Sigma
Tuesdays 4:30pm
Forum 110

Phi Theta Kappa
Thursdays 4:30pm
Founders Hall 178

Philosophy Club
Tuesdays 5:00pm
Founders Hall 172

Child Development Club
Wednesdays 4:00pm
John Muir Hall 155

T.R.I.O.
Thursday 4:15pm
Founders Hall 212

Electronic Music Club
Wednesdays 5:00-6:00pm
Performing Arts Center 243
Concerts Wednesday, Dec. 3
MJC Recital Hall 3:00pm

Red Nations & Friends
Saturdays 1:00pm
Founders Hall 155

Black Student Union
Fridays 12:30pm
Founders Hall 120

Psychology Club
Tuesdays 4:00-5:00pm
Founders Hall 178
Eating Disorder Speaker:
Signe Darpinian, MFT. Forum
101 Tues, Oct 28 4:30-6:00pm

Anthropology Club
Tuesdays 4:00pm
Pirates Village 104
Nov. trip California Academy
of Sciences: Skulls Exhibit

MECHA
Wednesdays 3:30pm
Founders Hall 154
Dia de Los Muertos event
(Day of the Dead)
East Campus Quad
Nov. 3 10am-3pm

Visual Arts Club
Wednesday 4:30pm
The Art Gallery

Leadership Experience
Wednesday 5:00pm
Sierra Hall 204

Gamers Club
1st and 3rd Monday 5:15pm
The MSR room 116

Young Americans for Liberty
Wednesdays 5:30pm
Forum 101

Student Equality Organization
Mondays 2:00pm
Student Services 127

NAMI on Campus
1st & 3rd Thursdays 2:30pm
Founders Hall 152

International Club
Thursday 4:00pm
Founders Hall 172
UNICEF Donations to Fight
Ebola in West Africa
Oct. 23 - Oct. 30 Stop by the
office to make a donation.

College Republicans
Wednesdays 4:00pm
Sierra Hall 174

Geology Club
Thursdays 4:30pm
Science Community Center
Room 326
BBQ Monday, Oct 20
Science Community Center
Great Valley Museum hosts
"Wild Planet Day" Oct. 11

Astronomy Club
Thursdays 5:00pm
Science Community Center
Room 133

Anatomy Club
Bimonthly Fridays 3:00PM
Lab opens at 12:00pm
Nursing Volunteer hours

Anime Club
Tuesdays 3:30-4:30 pm
Friday 11am-12pm
Outside the Performing
Arts Center

Operation Green
Mondays 4:00-5:00pm
Science Community Center
Room 214